

The Works at Work

Fresh Pond Parkway Sewer Project



April 2000

Dear Fresh Pond Community Member:

The Fresh Pond Parkway construction project will result in fully separated sewer and storm water services for this part of Cambridge. When it is complete, only storm water free of sewage contaminants will flow through storm water lines to the Alewife Brook. However, storm water itself carries contaminants as it flows across the ground surface into the system. In this, the third issue of **The Works at Work**, you will read more about this problem, and how you can do your part as the City moves forward with its storm water management program.

Sincerely,

Ralph E. Dunphy
Commissioner

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construction, and then providing a specific traffic control plan that would mitigate its impact. Traffic controls must smoothly and safely transition vehicles in and out of the work areas. The layout of traffic controls (e.g. signs, concrete barriers, drums, and cones) takes into account the contractor's equipment storage and work zones, contractor truck movement, vehicle turning radii, merging of traffic from different directions, and of course, traffic movement around the rotaries.

Putting the traffic management plan into actual operation requires close coordination between the S E A Resident Engineer and the contractor. Any changes in contractor schedules or construction sequence require associated changes to layout of traffic management controls. Traffic controls are reviewed for the upcoming week and modified as needed on a daily basis. The Resident Engineer must decide if traffic controls can remain in place for the duration of the construction, or must be removed at the end of each work day. Commuters are alerted to changes via stationary signs and variable message boards.

State and local police crews are scheduled for on-site details on a daily basis to ensure proper traffic management. The police help direct traffic and keep it moving. They also observe conditions and traffic controls and offer recommendations for changes or modifications to improve traffic conditions. The police presence increases public safety in the construction area by reducing the occurrences of erratic and careless driving. ■

Traffic! Traffic! Traffic!

Traffic delays are still a fact of life on Concord Ave. and Fresh Pond Parkway....this is not exactly a news flash to anyone who routinely travels this route. Recent traffic counts conducted by S E A Consultants show no decline in traffic volume since start of construction. Apparently, messages to seek alternate routes are going unheeded by the commuting public. But, the good news is that by all accounts, traffic flow has not deteriorated because of the construction activity. It was bad

but flowing before, and it's still bad but flowing now. It could be much worse.

The relative success in keeping traffic moving is attributable to good traffic management design, timely implementation of that design by the Resident Engineer and Contractor, and traffic oversight by State and Local Police.

The traffic management design was developed by anticipating each step the contractor would take during

Report From the Field



Bruno Cardarelli

Chief Resident Engineer for Fresh Pond

The contractor has installed 90% of the new sewers and 40% of the new drains on Concord Avenue and Fresh Pond Parkway. The construction is approximately 50% complete and is on schedule to be completed in April, 2001. The sewer vault located at the intersection of Lake View Avenue and Fresh Pond Parkway; and the sewer vault located at the Sozio Rotary Island, are complete. Several drain vaults are being built and will be in place in the spring.

Sewer and drain vaults are structures designed to store water. Periodically

this water is released and used to flush sediment deposits from the sewer and drain lines.

The existing combined sewer in Fresh Pond Parkway will be cleaned, lined and separated in May for exclusive storm drain use. Surface enhancements (the final piece of construction) are scheduled to begin late this summer.

Bruno welcomes calls from community members who may have a question or comment regarding the Fresh Pond Project Bruno can be reached at 617.661.7417. ■

Construction Schedule Update:

As of January 31, 2000, the Fresh Pond Parkway construction is approximately 50 % complete. The construction is on schedule with a projected completion date of April 29, 2001.

Significant remaining milestones:

June 2000

Complete subsurface utility work

July 2000

Start roadway surface construction work

September 2000

Begin pedestrian signals and lighting

October 2000

Start landscaping and sidewalks

All in a Day's Work!

One morning in December, environmental scientist Ryan Caisse saw something unusual while inspecting a 20 foot deep excavation in Fresh Pond Parkway. A lively beagle was wandering in the bottom of the pit, performing an inspection of his own. Realizing that the dog was not OSHA certified, Ryan removed the dog from the excavation and brought him to S E A's field office.



In the field office the beagle was fed and nicknamed Backfill. Ryan called the South Carolina number on Backfill's dog tag, hoping to return the beagle to its owner.

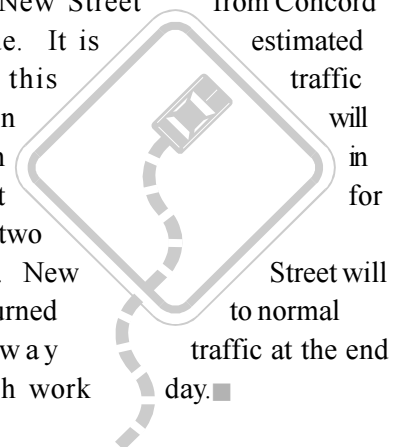
A quick check of a kennel's records showed that Backfill had been bought as a gift for a woman who lived in the Boston area. Fortunately, her phone number was in their files.

Ryan called the number and within an hour, the beagle's anxious owner was on the line - he had gotten away from her during a walk around the reservoir. Delighted to hear

her dog was safe, she arrived at S E A's Fresh Pond field office in less than 10 minutes. Skylar, Backfill's real name, bounced into her arms when he saw her and climbed happily into her car. Hopefully, Skylar has learned to sniff-out the unexpected pit falls of construction. ■

Traffic Notes:

Beginning early April, vehicles exiting New Street will not be allowed to enter directly onto Concord Road. Vehicles exiting New Street will be directed to Bay State Road, to Fern Street then onto Concord Avenue. Vehicles will continue to be able to enter New Street from Concord Avenue. It is estimated that this traffic pattern will remain in effect about two weeks. New two-way traffic will be returned to normal at the end of each work day. ■



Project Team Highlights

Profile of Steve White

*Deputy Commissioner,
Cambridge Department of Public Works*

“During my professional career, I’ve never had the opportunity to do such an important job for such an important community,” commented Steven White, DPW Deputy Commissioner, on the City’s Storm Water Management and Sewer Separation Project.

He views his role on the project as a very meaningful one with a tremendous amount of responsibility for the people he serves. The goal of the project is to improve and protect the water quality and quality of life for the citizens of Cambridge. This project will allow the community to live, grow and prosper. Steven has always had a strong desire to work in the public sector. Working on a project such as this, leaves him with a good feeling and sense of accomplishment. This feeling is bolstered by the support of the Commissioner, City Manager and the City Council. “They motivate us to do a good job.”

Protecting the environment not just for the present but for generations to come is Steven’s slogan for the Storm Water Management and Sewer Separation Project. “Because this

work does impact and set the stage of the environment for the future, we sometimes lose sight as professionals that others do not get a chance at this rare opportunity to work hard to preserve our environment for future



generations.” Steven believes that the efforts the DPW is making on this project are not just about the future but also about today - being careful to maintain access to people’s lives and businesses during

construction; maintain utility services, and practice good traffic management are just some of the areas that need to be taken into consideration so that the community is not adversely impacted more than necessary. The DPW welcomes the community’s participation. “If we work with the community, they will work with us and we will all feel good about the project when it is done.”

Steven feels that this attitude towards the project is not his alone. “Everything I’ve said reflects the attitude and sincerity of the DPW and the people in it, as well as the attitude and efforts of the engineering team we’ve put together for the job. What we are doing here in Fresh Pond Parkway and throughout the City is, indeed, a good thing!” ■

Cleaning Up Urban Storm Water - You Can Help!

When rain or snow falls, the water runs across land surfaces toward catch basins and into storm water drains, or into local rivers and ponds. Storm water flows over and through the ground picking up natural and human-made pollutants. These can include:

- ◆ fertilizers, herbicides and pesticides from homes, parks and businesses
- ◆ oil, grease and chemicals from streets, parking lots and other paved areas
- ◆ sediment from improperly managed land and construction sites
- ◆ bacteria and nutrients from pet wastes

All of these elements are carried through the system and out to surface water bodies such as the Alewife Brook and the Charles River. When taken together, storm water runoff from a densely populated area such as Cambridge can contribute significantly to the pollution of these water bodies that are so important for their aesthetic and recreational value.

Everyone who lives or works in Cambridge contributes to the storm water runoff quality. Personal choices, awareness and activities such as use of environmentally friendly fertilizers and ice melting materials, lawn and garden design, energy conservation and waste disposal methods can have significant impact on our rivers and streams. ■

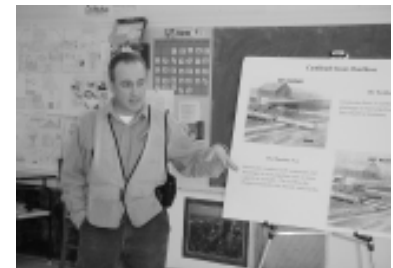
Profile of Bruno Cardarelli

Chief Resident Engineer

Bruno Cardarelli is S E A’s Chief Resident Engineer for the Fresh Pond Parkway project. Based in the field trailer located next to the Sozio rotary, Bruno oversees the construction activities for the DPW on a daily basis.

With over 20 years of engineering experience, Bruno especially enjoys his work on public projects. “In construction, you get to see a project

go from concept to reality. And it’s very rewarding for me personally to work on public projects that improve the environment and that benefit people.” He noted that the Fresh Pond Parkway project is unique because of the large size of the piping and the tight constricted work space and the coordination required because of so many agencies being involved - City of Cambridge, DPW, Community Development, Water Department as well as MDC,



Bruno talking to Fletcher School students.

Massachusetts Highway Department, MWRA, State Police, and others - and coordinating their efforts sets this project apart. ■

City of Cambridge
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Who to Contact . . .

In case of emergencies, questions, problems, requests for project information or meeting announcements, please observe the following procedure.

Construction Related Activities:

Call the **S E A Field Trailer at 617.661.7403**. The telephone at the trailer is staffed from 7:00 AM until 5:00 PM, Monday - Thursday; on Friday, the time is from 7:00 AM until 3:30 PM. Earl Ross, Construction Manager, and the S E A Field staff will be available during the week to immediately respond to your calls. **This is the fastest way to get action on construction related concerns.**

After 5:00 PM and on weekends and holidays, the message on the S E A field office phone will direct the caller to the DPW Hot Line at 617.349.4860. DPW employees answer this phone line 24 hours a day.

Community Relations Issues:

Call **Judy Kavanagh**, Community Relations Coordinator at **617.498.4710** regarding public meetings or project information updates.

Fresh Pond Parkway Project Team

Cambridge

Department of Public Works

Ralph E. Dunphy, *Commissioner*
Steven L. White, *Deputy Commissioner*
Owen O'Riordan, *City Engineer*

Engineering Project Team

S E A Consultants Inc.
Montgomery Watson
The Maguire Group, Inc.
TAMS

Contractor

P. Gioioso & Sons, Inc.
